

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Delta Entrepreneurship Network

QUESTION: Can a support organization be a government agency that offers services to entrepreneurs at no cost?

ANSWER: If entrepreneurs can receive services at no cost and you are not a private business or paid consultant then you can be considered as an entrepreneurship support organization (ESO).

QUESTION: Can you explain the tiers for the entrepreneur support organizations?

ANSWER: The tiers are a guide to learn the entrepreneurial landscape in the Delta region. The tiers allow us to see the level of services throughout the region. We are looking at services provided, expansion of services, and knowledge of the ecosystem. The ESOs will be divided into tiers, but the primary evaluation piece will be on their interview and the highest evaluation scores will be chosen as fellows regardless of tier.

QUESTION: Is there some expectation of service providers working with entrepreneurs? Or are these two separate things happening at the same time?

ANSWER: Both will be attending New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. The two tracks are separate; the ESO application process is different than the entrepreneur application process. In building a network, we want to make sure that we are connecting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship support organizations with each other. Some ESOs and some entrepreneurs may not know what resources are out there. They will be working together and participating in what seminars and programming at New Orleans entrepreneur week together.

QUESTION: What about inventor ideas that need help with patenting? Do they qualify under this program?

ANSWER: The idea would have to be significantly developed and within the eligibility requirements. We aren't offering specific services to help you get a patent and we can't guarantee that it would be a part of New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, but the hope is that if you are connected with the entrepreneurship support organizations, then they will help you get to that next step.

QUESTION: Can more than one person in the support organization participate in the interview?

ANSWER: We can only send one representative from each entrepreneurship support organization as a fellow. If you feel that to adequately articulate what your support organization is doing you need more than one individual in your interview, you can have more than one individual in the interview.

QUESTION: What type of information will be covered at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week that will be useful to entrepreneur support organizations? This will be necessary and helpful in addressing what ESOs plan to take away from the New Orleans experience, correct?

ANSWER: New Orleans Entrepreneur Week's official agenda will be announced February 23rd. You can see what specific seminars are going to be held then. What we really want to know in the interview is: How you are going to maximize this experience? How you are going to maximize the relationships that you build with other support organizations and with entrepreneurs? What is it going to drive you to do in your local communities? So really, why do you want to go? Why is it important that we choose you over someone else?

QUESTION: Will entrepreneur fellows have the opportunity to pitch to a panel of potential investors in New Orleans?

ANSWER: That is correct. The entrepreneurs will be showcasing their ideas to a panel of investors during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week.

*Any additional questions should be directed to Katie Milligan at deltachallenge@dra.gov or reference DRA.gov/entrepreneur for more information about the Delta Entrepreneur Network.